

REMARKS

The present invention is directed to a supplemental or auxiliary magnetic field generated by a "protrusion" that is directly mounted to or extends from an interior surface of the enclosure that encases the disk drive components. Importantly, the protrusion is not part of the magnetic head on the actuator. Rather, the protrusion is a completely separate structure with respect to the actuator and its magnetic head.

In contrast, the primary cited reference, *Araki*, discloses a magnetic head 4 (Figure 3) having a magnetic film 41 that is embedded inside the head 4. As shown in Figure 1, head 4 is mounted to the end of the actuator 5, and is not part of the enclosure of the disk drive. Moreover, Figure 4 clearly illustrates that it is the permanent magnet 1 that is detached from head 4 and film 41. Thus, it is impossible to characterize the film 41 as being part of the enclosure. Furthermore, it is unclear from *Araki* whether magnet 1 is inside or outside the enclosure.

The claims of the present invention have been rewritten to clarify these differences. For example, claim 1 now requires the local magnetic field generator to be "on a surface of the enclosure facing the magnetic disk," and that, "the local magnetic field is generated from the enclosure toward the magnetic disk." In clear contrast, *Araki's* film 41 is inside the head 4 (not on the surface of the enclosure), and the film 41 generates a field from the head 4 of the actuator 5 toward the disk 2 (not from the enclosure). Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claim 3 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 4 was rewritten to include an enclosure case for housing the disk-like storage medium that has pole pieces "extending from an interior surface of the enclosure case toward the surface of the disk-like storage medium." Again, *Araki* only contemplates placing a film 41 inside of its head 4; there is no mention or even suggestion of modifying the enclosure of that reference. In addition, claim 5 requires the disk device to erase data stored in the disk-like storage medium "by magnetic flux starting from one of the pole pieces when the disk device is set in an external magnetic field."

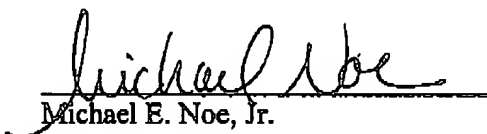
To further distinguish Araki, independent claims 6, 10, and 16 add "an actuator having a magnetic head for reading data from and writing data to the magnetic disk," to clearly separate the elements in question to avoid any confusion about their physical relationship. Moreover, claim 6 adds "an enclosure containing and surrounding the magnetic disk and the actuator," "a pair of protrusions mounted to and extending from an interior surface of the enclosure," and that they are, "spaced apart from the magnetic head." These elements should alleviate any concern about the structural limitations of the present invention and put the claims in condition for allowance. Claim 8 goes even further by requiring the pair of protrusions to be on the top cover.

Finally, independent method claim 18 was amended to require both internal and external magnetic fields, and an internal magnetic field generator that is mounted to an internal surface of the enclosure. These limitations are sufficient to readily distinguish the prior art.

The remaining cited references are moot since *Araki* is effectively disqualified for the above-identified reasons. Notwithstanding, Applicant will address each of the secondary references. For example, *Tielemans* is cited merely for its material selection. The Examiner cited *Davies* because it "teaches a pair of protrusions in a disk head...Col. 5, lines 1-14." However, Applicant's invention is part of the enclosure, not the head. Finally, Applicant also disagrees with the Examiner's assessment of *Ahmad*. That reference is directed to mechanical dampening system, not a magnetic circuit in the enclosure.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,


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